

REPORT  
ON  
NATIVE PAPERS  
FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd December 1883.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
1	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong ...	653	
2	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto ...	474	
3	"Tripura Vartavaha" ... ..	Comillah ...	.....	
4	"Prem Pracharini" ... ..	Nawabgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....	
Weekly.				
5	"Alok" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrika" ... ..	Ditto ...	700	17th December 1883.
7	"Arya Darpan" ... ..	Ditto ...	150	14th ditto.
8	"Bangabasi" ... ..	Ditto ...	8,500	15th ditto.
9	"Bartabaha" ... ..	Pubna ...	.....	
10	"Bharat Bandhu" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	
11	"Bharat Hitaishi" ... ..	Burrisal ...	450	
12	"Bharat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh ...	713	11th ditto.
13	"Bardwan Sanjivani" ... ..	Burdwan ...	282	18th ditto.
14	"Bikrampur Patrika" ... ..	Dacca ...	.....	14th ditto.
15	"Charuvarta" ... ..	Sherepore, Mymensingh	529	10th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakash" ... ..	Dacca ...	526	16th ditto.
17	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly ...	745	14th ditto.
18	"Gramvarta Prakashika" ... ..	Comercolly ...	267	15th ditto.



No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI—concluded.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
19	"Halisahar Prakāshikā" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	15th December 1883.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	200	12th ditto.
21	"Jātiya Suhrid" ... ..	Calcutta	700	
22	"Medini" ... ..	Midnapore	.....	13th ditto.
23	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	418	
24	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	14th ditto.
25	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	850	17th ditto.
26	"Paridarshak" ... ..	Sylhet	421	9th ditto.
27	"Prajā Bandhu" ... ..	Chandernagore	287	
28	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	275	14th ditto.
29	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Beauleah	.....	
30	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kakiniā, Rungpore	220	13th ditto.
31	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	
32	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	
33	"Samaya" ... ..	Ditto	.....	17th ditto.
34	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	15th ditto.
35	"Sāraswat Patra" ... ..	Dacca	.....	
36	"Shakti" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	14th ditto.
37	"Som Prakāsh" ... ..	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	17th ditto.
38	"Sulābha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	3,000	15th ditto.
39	"Surabhi" ... ..	Deoghur	.....	17th ditto.
40	"Udbodhan" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	15th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
41	"Dainik Vārtā" ... ..	Hoogli	.....	14th to 18th December 1883.
42	"Samvad Prabhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	250	12th to 18th ditto.
43	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	14th to 19th ditto.
44	"Samachār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	12th to 17th ditto.
45	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	500	
46	"Prabhāti" ... ..	Ditto	500	14th to 18th ditto.
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	365	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
48	"Behar Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore	.....	13th December 1883.
49	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	1,500	13th ditto.
50	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	500	17th ditto.
51	"Uchit Baktā" ... ..	Ditto	.....	15th ditto.
52	"Hindi Samāchār" ... ..	Bhagulpore	.....	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
53	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Calcutta	250	14th ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
54	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
55	"Amir-ul-Akbar" ... ..	Ditto	.....	17th ditto.
56	"Jarida-i-numaish" ... ..	Ditto	.....	17th & 20th ditto.
<b>ASSAMESE.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
57	"Assam Vilāsinī" ... ..	Sibsagar	.....	
<b>URIYA.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
58	"Utkal Dipikā" ... ..	Cuttack	188	1st December 1883.
59	"Utkal Darpan" ... ..	Balasore	200	2nd ditto.
60	"Balasore Samvad Vāhika" ... ..	Ditto	92	29th November 1883.
61	"Purusottam Patrikā" ... ..	Pooree	330	3rd December 1883.
<i>Monthly.</i>				
62	"Sabaka" ... ..	Cuttack	.....	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
63	"Kshatriya Patrikā" ... ..	Patna	400	



## POLITICAL.

The *Som Prakásh*, of the 17th December, points out the difficulties of the situation in Egypt. The position of England in that country is a dangerous one. If she attempts to interfere in the affairs of the Soudan, and to hold in check the Mehdi and his followers, most of whom carry on slave trade, her embarrassments will be increased. The English and the Khedive have now many enemies, and if they are to be put down, England will have to incur a large expenditure of blood and treasure. In Egypt the finances are in an unsatisfactory condition, and the country is not in a position to render much pecuniary assistance. This is a matter for anxiety to both England and India. To carry on the work of administration and military operations in a country, which cannot pay even the current expenses, is not an easy matter. It, therefore, behoves England to remain content with Egypt for the present, and not to seek to expiate her guilt caused by her interference in the affairs of that country by now endeavouring to put down the slave trade.

SOM PRAKASH  
Dec. 17th, 1883.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

2. The *Paridarshak*, of the 9th December, is glad to hear that the Chief Commissioner of Assam has sent an emissary to the Akas. If they do not release the two captives, they will have to fight with the English Government. Four hundred troops have already been despatched from Kachar towards Shillong.

PARIDARSHAK,  
Dec. 9th, 1883.

3. The same paper does not think that the Mahomedan rate-payers of the Sylhet Municipality are right when they say that as the number of Mahomedan inhabitants is equal to that of the Hindu inhabitants, the number of Mahomedan Commissioners should be equal to that of the Hindu Commissioners. The Hindus pay nearly two-thirds of the taxes; so they have a greater interest. When the interests of the two classes are different, how can their rights be the same? Again, for some years past, the same Mahomedan gentlemen have been appointed Commissioners. This shows that the number of able Mahomedans in Sylhet is very limited. Those that are now elected Commissioners are likely to be re-elected in future. Under these circumstances, the Mahomedan agitation in Sylhet is likely to prove fruitless.

PARIDARSHAK.

4. Baboo Kedar Nath De, a correspondent of the same paper, brings to the notice of the authorities the scarcity of water at Baniá Chung, a village very thickly inhabited. All the tanks have dried up. None of them possesses any considerable quantity of water during the hot season. The writer asks that the local Road Cess Committee should set apart a sum of money to remove this inconvenience.

PARIDARSHAK.

5. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 10th December, says that, at the present moment, there is an outburst of loyalty all over India from Bombay to Bengal. There were two auspicious occasions before when the people of India had opportunities of showing their loyalty, viz. during the visits of the Duke of Edinburgh and of the Prince of Wales. But this time the Duke of Connaught is not a mere visitor. He has accepted service in India, and will make India his residence for a time. He will examine all the various conditions of Indian life.

CHARU VARTA,  
Dec. 10th, 1883.

There was another outburst of loyalty in Calcutta on the arrival of the Viceroy from the hills. No other Viceroy ever succeeded so well in attracting the hearts of the Indian people as has Lord Ripon, and none has discharged the duty of doing good to India in such a way, and in spite of so much opposition, as he has done.



There has been another outburst of loyalty of the Indian people at the display of the united power of the English at the Calcutta International Exhibition, as seen through the efforts of Jules Joubert. The mighty power which demolished the forts of Napoleon, defeated the Sikhs at Mudki, and established an empire in the guise of merchants, compels us to admire it, and to become loyal to it.

CHARU VARTA,  
Dec. 10th, 1883.

6. The same paper disapproves of the provision regarding the transferability of occupancy rights in the Bengal Tenancy Bill. The Editor says that neither

The Tenancy Bill. the jotedar nor the under-ryot should have the power to transfer his holdings. If the modification proposed by the Lieutenant-Governor is adopted, the present relations between landlord and tenant will come to an end. Any tenant having an interest in the land is an occupancy ryot. If he does not cultivate, what claim has he to the land? He may be a money-lender or anything, and can have no claim of being regarded as a tenant by the zemindar. The occupancy right is not a moveable property, which can be sold or given away at pleasure. The right lasts as long as cultivation is carried on. The moment cultivation is stopped, the right ceases to exist. The occupancy right was created in the year 1859, and the Government being bent on the ruin of the zemindar wants to give this imaginary something a shape.

CHARU VARTA.

7. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Nagarpur, says that, unless two or three doctors are at once sent by Government to this place, the sufferings of the people from the effects of malaria will have no end. Already the burning ghâts are full of corpses undergoing cremation, and the loud lamentations of bereaved mothers and wives fill the air.

CHARU VARTA.

8. Another correspondent of the same paper, writing from Tángáil, says that malaria is raging in that locality. Many villages are on the point of being depopulated. There are but very few families which have completely escaped the effects of malaria. Quinine is selling at a very high price.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
Dec. 11th, 1883.

9. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 11th December, contains an article headed the "Outstill Commission." The Editor is glad to notice that the Bengal

The Outstill Commission. Government has at length been roused from its sleep, and has taken up the subject of the outstill system. The appointment to the Outstill Commission of Baboo Krishna Behari Sen has given general satisfaction; but the number of non-official members ought to be increased. The Revd. Mr. Evans, of Monghyr, ought to have a seat on the Commission. Drunkenness has so much increased in East Bengal that nothing short of a visit to every village will convince people of the fact. The time within which the Commission has been directed to present its report is considered far too short. The period should be extended by two months.

BHARAT MIHIR.

10. The same paper dwells upon the necessity that has arisen of educating the agricultural classes, as nothing short of that will improve their condition.

The oppression to which they are subject at the hands of the mahajans, the zemindars and their unscrupulous amlah, their disregard of the laws of sanitation, their poverty, and their inability to improve agriculture are all due to their ignorance and lack of education.

BHARAT MIHIR.

11. The same paper accords a hearty welcome to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

The Duke of Connaught. The Duke, it is remarked, has become an object of exceeding regard to the people of India, on the ground that he has not come to see merely the external condition of India, but to serve his Royal mother in it. The people pray that he and his royal consort may live long, and redress the grievances of India.



12. The same paper condemns what it calls the unholy alliance between the zemindars and the opponents of the Ilbert Bill in the matter of the Rent Bill.

The Rent Bill.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
Dec. 11th, 1883.

The Editor would never have supported the latter measure, if he had been convinced that it was taking away the rights of the zemindars and conferring them upon the ryots. He is not a blind supporter of the Rent Bill, and has pointed out its defects at length. Fortunately most of these defects have been removed. In East Bengal the income of the zemindars has increased twofold or threefold within the last decade. This result has been in many cases brought about by sucking dry the lifeblood of the ryots. An amendment of law of landlord and tenant has become exceedingly necessary. The transfer of occupancy rights has been objected to. But as occupancy rights had formerly no values and have come to have it in the course of time, it is but just that the ryots should be made participators in it.

13. The same paper dwells upon the desirability of conferring the occupancy right upon the middleman. He occupies an important position in the agricultural community, and both cultivators and zemindars are gainers by his labours.

The middleman.

BHARAT MIHIR.

14. We extract the following observations from the same paper :—" We have long since given up all hopes of seeing the introduction of a scheme of efficient local self-government into Bengal. From the day that we understood that the sole object of the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson's accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship was to maintain the interests of the Civilians and non-official Anglo-Indians, all hopes have forsaken our hearts. That we have nevertheless occasionally written on this subject has been due to the fact that we could not help listening patiently to the sweet-sour words of the authorities. It is needless to say that we do not believe a word of what the Hon'ble Mr. Dampier has said regarding the alleged sincere desire of the Lieutenant-Governor in connection with local self-government. The entrusting of the powers of the Central Board in the hands of the Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates is tantamount to saying that local self-government shall not be introduced. We should prefer a postponement of that measure for the present. If, luckily for this country, there should ever come a Lieutenant-Governor of the desired stamp, efforts might then be made to secure that object. We can clearly see that the Lieutenant-Governor will render Local Boards perhaps even worse than the present Road Cess Committees. The impression which the Lieutenant-Governor would have us cherish regarding Mr. Westmacott is such as to make it appear that His honor considers us no better than ignorant children."

Local Self-Government in Bengal.

BHARAT MIHIR.

15. The same paper exhorts his fellow editors to petition Government for supplying them each with a copy of the Weekly Report on Native Newspapers. At present they cannot know whether or not their writings are properly reported on by the Government translator.

The weekly report on native papers.

BHARAT MIHIR.

16. A correspondent of the same paper refers to the panic which has been caused among the inhabitants of Lukhimpore by the recent murderous assault committed by certain Lushais on two shop-keepers of the place.

Lushais in Lukhimpore.

BHARAT MIHIR.

17. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 12th December, says that the people of Egypt have lost their confidence in the English.

The English in Egypt.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
Dec. 12th, 1883.

The former are weak-minded. They may be won over by the Turks, the French, or any other people. Without the restoration of the ascendancy of the National party, there is no hope of the prosperity of Egypt. But such restoration is opposed to the views and to



the interests of the Liberal party in England. If Egypt is annexed to the British Empire, there is some hope of its prosperity. But the European powers will not allow that to be easily done. The fortunes of Egypt sank below the depths of the sea on the day of the battle of Telelkebir, and her independence has also disappeared since that date.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
Dec. 12th, 1883.

18. The same paper is sorry to notice that though the Lieutenant-Governor is loud in the praise of the European officials employed in the census work, he has no thanks to give to the unpaid native agency, who sacrificed so much of their time and money to help the State.

HINDU RANJIKA.

19. The Ramnagar correspondent of the same paper complains that though the inhabitants pay the dâk tax, there is no post office at Dilpasar, in the district of Pubna, which fact causes great inconvenience to the people of the following villages, namely, Ramnagar, Maydandighi, Jairampore, Shripur, Dudbaria, Doharigram, Gopalpore, Kharua, Dilpasar, Pukharpur, Rajaram, and others. The peon comes only once a week; subscribing to newspapers is useless.

A post office at Dilpasar.

The same correspondent also complains that the road from Pubna to Bogra, which was commenced during the last famine, and on which 10 to 15 thousand rupees were spent, is still incomplete. Will it remain unfinished even during the administration of Lord Ripon?

An unfinished road.

BIKRAMPUR PATRIKA,  
Dec. 14th, 1883.

20. The *Bikrampur Patriká*, of the 14th December, hears that even the *Pioneer* is saying that the Lieutenant-Governor may go on a short leave owing to ill-health.

Mr. Thompson.

If his health is so bad, he should, says the writer, resign at once.

BIKRAMPUR PATRIKA.

21. The same paper is afraid that the Rent Bill will be passed into law by Lord Ripon. Perhaps His Excellency thinks that, as the measure is calculated to bring about an improvement in the condition of thousands of ryots, it is no sin to pass it. But the writer believes that it will, at the same time, be a bar to the improvement of the condition of a large number of men. It should also be taken into consideration that Lord Cornwallis has solemnly pledged the good faith of the English nation in the Permanent Settlement, and if that Settlement is interfered with, no one will any longer place any reliance on the promises of the English nation. Should a cool-headed ruler like Lord Ripon do such an improper thing?

The Rent Bill.

RUNGPORE DIK  
PRAKÁSH,  
Dec. 13th, 1883.

22. A correspondent, writing from Haridebpur, in the district of Rungpore, to the *Rungpore Dik Prakásh*, of the 13th December, says that there have occurred

Theft.

numerous cases of theft in that locality. Seven or eight thieves entered the other day the house of Baboo Ramsundar Rai, and carried off five or six boxes in which his valuables were deposited. The writer asks the police officers to keep strict watch on the chowkidars, and to see that they go on their rounds properly.

MEDINI,  
Dec. 13th, 1883.

The *Medini*, of the 13th December, says that Midnapore has no drains. Foul water from houses falls on the side drains of lanes and roads. It is not drained off, but becomes putrid with animal and vegetable matters. The municipal coolies occasionally remove the black muddy deposits from the side drains. But that avails nothing. Such filthy drains abound in Midnapore. Besides this, pits and pools are often filled up with filth. These things in a state of putrefaction emit noxious gas, and generate malaria. The people drink well water. But there are many drains and privies close to the wells. Foul matter from them often find its way to these wells and make their water unwholesome.

The conservancy arrangements at Midnapore.



MEDINI,  
Dec. 13th, 1883.

24. The same paper is glad to hear that the District Magistrate of Midnapore has left for Ghattal to enquire into the charges brought against Bazlal Karim. He will hold his court at Khyrpie on Monday. The writer does not know how the enquiry is being conducted. But he thinks that the Magistrate should have gone to the mofussil to enquire into the case after leaving the Deputy Magistrate, on some pretence or other at the sudder station.

Bazlal Karim, the Deputy Magistrate of Ghattal.

25. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Garbetá, says that wild elephants have commenced their ravages in that part of the country. The prospects of the crops are already gloomy. The little that was left in the field is being destroyed by the wild elephants. The writer asks the Government to take some steps to prevent this destruction of the crops.

The ravages of wild elephants.

MEDINI.

26. The same correspondent draws public attention to the following acts of oppression committed by Messrs. Watson and Company:—

Indigo oppressions.

MEDINI.

They have cut the embankment in the village of Nayábasat, and thus ruined the peasants of a large village, the rate of rent in which is the highest in the pergunnah. The ryots made some resistance at first, but the European zemindar cut the embankment under cover of night.

They have stopped the water-supply at the embankment in the village of Khapribhángá, and thereby ruined the peasants in the large villages like Jirapara and others. The zemindar realizes water-rates from these people. The writer learns from confidential sources that when they went to the European manager with tears in their eyes imploring for water, the manager said "your crops are dying, you may go on dying, but the water will not be supplied."

27. The same paper says that a young political Sanyási has recently made his appearance at Garpratapnagar. He is about twenty-six years old and knows Sanskrit, Persian, Bengali, and English thoroughly well. The object of his life is to teach politics to the people. He speaks on such subjects as the Rent Bill, the Ilbert Bill, the Arms Act, the constitution of the British Indian Empire, the outstill system, the mass education, moral training and patriotism, and so on.

A political Sanyási.

MEDINI.

28. A correspondent of the same paper says that there is great confusion in the survey and jumma bundi operations at Doro. A few instances are given below—

Oppression in the Khas Mehal.

MEDINI.

(1).—In the Bengali year 1288, the authorities granted a remission to the defaulters for the whole amount of rent for 1287 and of a quarter of the amount of rent for 1288. But the subordinate officers granted remission to some, and not to others. Some obtained partial remission, while others were compelled to repay the amounts remitted. The correspondent has a chuck named Pattalayek. Government has taken 35 bighas and odd of land from it for an embankment. But the poor ryot has still to pay the rent for it. He made several petitions to obtain abatement of his rent, but his moveables and immoveables were attached, and he was obliged to pay the extra rent. These are hardships in the Khas Mehals which are unknown in zemindaries.

(2).—The correspondent has a brother named Maheschandra Máiti. He has no land in chuck Tárwan, but in the present survey he has been assessed, and the rent realized by distraint; so without holding any land a man is obliged to pay rent.



(3).—A portion of the jote malikáná lands of Gorachand Maiti has been included in the survey in revenue-paying lands. When he petitioned Mr. Mendes to have the error corrected, his petition was rejected.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
Dec. 14th, 1883.

29. The *Samvád Prabhákar*, of the 14th December, remarks that direct taxation was unknown in India during the Aryan ascendancy. The Mahomedan

License-tax.

Government imposed the zezia, and the result was ruinous. The English imposed the income-tax, and, subsequently, the license-tax, which is only another name of the income-tax. The Lieutenant-Governor says that none but those that have to pay, or are likely to pay, the tax are opposed to it. The writer asks who else can be opposed to it. Those alone are discontented with a tax who have to pay it. The license-tax brings about 14 lakhs of rupees to Government, but the cost of the discontent and oppression is 14 lakhs times as much. Mr. Thompson seems to be in favour of direct taxation. He does not like that the license-tax should be abolished. The writer is not so much against direct taxation as against the way in which a direct tax is assessed and collected. The days of direct taxation in India are yet distant. Many entertain the hope that Lord Ripon will abolish this tax in the next budget.

PRATIKAR,  
Dec. 14th, 1883.

30. The *Pratikár*, of the 14th December, remarks that the agitation against the Ilbert Bill is on the increase.

The Ilbert Bill.

The Bill should be passed in no time. The differences between the natives and the Europeans have already become so great, and the Europeans are doing so much wrong, that if the Bill does not pass very soon some serious calamity is likely to occur.

PRATIKAR.

31. The same paper notices that a rumour is current at Calcutta that some of the scape-grace zemindars are likely to support the Keswick class. The other day

The Ilbert Bill.

some members of that class made long speeches in the midst of loud cheers from the zemindars. If these zemindars really join the opponents of the Ilbert Bill, mere burning them in effigy will not do. They should be branded with the name of "nimakhárám" or traitors like that person at Delhi whom everybody called "nimakhárám," and none mentioned his name.

Fortunately all zemindars will not be able to join this unnatural league. The number of Sevaprasáds is very limited. Among zemindars there are very few who are a disgrace to that name. Ninety-nine zemindars out of a hundred are at one with the people, and wish that the Ilbert Bill may pass. The writer hopes that the zemindars will publicly denounce the traitors who will desert their countrymen.

MURSHIDABAD  
PRATINIDHI.  
Dec. 14th, 1883.

32. The *Murshidábád Pratinidhi*, of the 14th December, is greatly alarmed at the statement made by Lord Ripon on the 7th December in the Legislative Council.

The Ilbert Bill.

The writer thinks that Lord Ripon is afraid of the Anglo-Indians. He has made an apology to them. He is not yet sure what the decision of the Legislative Council will be on the Bill. If they cannot decide in so long a time, when will they come to a decision? The delay is ruinous to the natives. The greater the delay, the more numerous become the obstructions. Lord Ripon should plainly tell the people if he is frightened by the frowns of the Europeans—if the lion is frightened by the cry of 500 jackals. The people have become impatient, and still entertain the hope that Lord Ripon will not disappoint them after having done so much for them.



33. The *Shakti*, of the 14th December, says that the Anglo-Indian tea, coffee, and indigo-planters are making a great fuss about the Ilbert Bill. They can do so, because they are European British-born subjects. But why are the Andrews and Pedrus of the Chunamgully making so much fuss? The objection to the Bill has reference to the rights of the British-born subjects, and not to the rights of those who wear hats and coats.

SHAKTI,  
Dec. 14th, 1883.

34. The *Behar Bandhu*, of the 13th December, dwells upon the necessity that has arisen of passing the Ilbert Bill into law. Considering that the people want it, and that only a handful of Europeans are opposed to it, it behoves Government to pass it without delay.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
Dec. 13th, 1883.

35. The *Uchit Baktá*, of the 15th December, says that it fears that vernacular newspapers are not properly reported on. Full translations of articles in the Hindi and Urdu papers particularly are not submitted for the information of Government. Considering the large number of native papers, and the fact that the translator has got only a few assistants, and that they are all Bengalis, it cannot be expected that justice will be done to Urdu and Hindi papers. The Editor asks Government to increase the staff of translators, to make better arrangements for reporting on native papers, and to supply each native editor with a copy of the translator's weekly report.

UCHIT BAKTA,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

36. The *Halisahar Prakashiká*, of the 15th December, disapproves of the proposal regarding the Ilbert Bill made by the *Statesman*. It says that Lord Ripon is virtue in an embodied form. But if he accepts this proposal, it will plunge him into a lake of sin.

HALISAHAR  
PRAKASHIKA,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

37. The *Udbodhan*, of the 15th December, says that the statement made by Lord Ripon on the 7th of December plainly shows that the Ilbert Bill will pass. The Bill as modified will not be so beneficial to the natives as it was in its original form. Be that as it may, it is fortunate that the all-powerful Government has succeeded in defending the weak and powerless natives of India from the furious attack of powerful enemies, and that they will not henceforth be entirely precluded from trying Europeans.

UDBODHAN,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

38. The same paper observes that if the Ilbert Bill passes with the proposed modifications, it will not do much good to the natives of this country. The Local Government will enjoy the power of appointing Justices of the Peace. There is no chance of the natives being appointed as such during Mr. Thompson's administration, and it is doubtful whether any of his successors will so appoint them. The cases of European offenders will be easily transferred from the files of native Magistrates, because the High Court thinks that natives are incapable of trying Europeans. It is problematical whether natives will ever become District Magistrates. Mr. R. C. Datta is being transferred and retransferred as Joint-Magistrate and Magistrate from district to district for short terms, and with strong claims Mr. B. L. Gupta does not get the Chief Magistracy of Calcutta. No one knows what length of time will be necessary to see a native made District Magistrate. The people praise Lord Ripon because he has given what no one else ever gave them.

UDBODHAN.

39. The same paper says that the report on native papers should be supplied to the vernacular press. It complains that its contemporaries do not take up

UDBODHAN.



the subject warmly. The *Bang-basi* is blamed for not calling a meeting of native editors for the purpose of taking steps in this direction as recommended by the *Sádháraní*.

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

40. The *Grámvartá Prakáshiká*, of the 15th December, continues its article headed "What are our grievances?" and says that the people should be thankful to

Education.

the English Government for establishing the Education Department. It has, by giving high education to the people, paved the way of India's future improvement. But the people of India cannot reduce to practice what they learn at school. For instance, from the study of English history they learn that there is no distinction between the black and the white races. But if they write or say this, the demoniac Englishmen come down upon them. They learn high sentiments from England, and wish to follow the instructions of their spiritual guide, but they are prevented at every step. England cannot be said to have done her duty to India as long as with high education she does not give the people of India a practical education to help them forward in the way of national improvement. The people with their mental improvement should learn to exercise their powers for practical improvement. The writer hopes that when the report of the Education Commission is well digested, Government will be in a position to see the defects of the dry education they are giving to the people. The people expect much from Lord Ripon, and from the English people. Their hopes are rarely fulfilled, and when fulfilled fresh disappointments make their appearance. The instructor is a model man, but he does not teach the people what they want to learn. This is to be regretted.

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA.

41. The same paper says, whatever the optimists of the city and the officers of Government may say, it is a fact patent to every villager that the

The state of the country.

people are getting poorer and poorer. A slight rise in the price of rice produces distress, and people begin to sell their furniture and valuables. The sources of income are getting fewer, but expenditure is becoming larger and larger. How can the people be happy under these circumstances?

- (1). Many persons, both of the higher and of the lower classes, used formerly to obtain livelihood by spinning thread. But with the importation of yarn this source of the people's income dried up. Many among the lower classes still earned some thing by spinning coarse yarn, but when coarse yarn too began to be imported, the spinning industry came to an end.
- (2). With the importation of Manchester cloth the occupation of the weaver class was brought to an end.
- (3). The internal trade supported many thousands. But it is not in a flourishing condition. The capitalists are withdrawing their capital from internal traffic.
- (4). The indigo and silk concerns afforded remunerative employment to a large number of men. But these concerns are gradually being given up.

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA.

42. The same paper observes that the non-official Europeans have become strange animals after losing their

Strange loyalty.

sense in the Ilbert Bill controversy. They have reached the highest pitch of loyalty in their speeches. Intimidation, abuse, threat of rebellion, bluster,—everything was used, and at last they have commenced showing their loyalty in action. Loyalty is a sacred thing, but to these men it is of the earth, earthy. The conduct of the officials appears to



be stranger still than that of the non-officials. Every officer, high or low, is subordinate to the Viceroy. How they can join in insulting him appears to be strange. Many think that these officers are strengthening the ranks of the non-official opposition. They have no regard for the Viceroy, and unless they were restrained by their official position they would have joined the opposition to discredit the Viceroy.

43. The *Dainik Vartá*, of the 15th December, remarks that in the Resolution on the Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipality, Mr. Thompson

The elective system.

has shown that he is not against the elective system. He deserves the thanks of the people. He says in plain terms that the people have learned to take interest in public matters. Those who, in spite of such remarks from the Lieutenant-Governor, persist in holding that Bengalis do not understand the elective system, and cannot do justice to it, deserve epithets which the writer leaves his readers to apply. He says that the Lieutenant-Governor will find the same conscientiousness in the mofussil as he has found in Calcutta. Education and the spirit of independence are not at the present day confined to Calcutta alone.

DAINIK VARTA,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

44. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 15th December, remarks that Lord Ripon is a real well-wisher of the natives,

The duty of the natives of India.

and that the low class Anglo-Indians are insulting him. What is the duty of the natives under these circumstances? The writer says that indignation meetings should be held all over the country from the Himalayas to the Cape Comorin, expressing sympathy with Lord Ripon, and protesting against the conduct of these Europeans.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

45. The following is a translation of an article in the *Samāchār Chandrikā*, of the 15th December:—Although our Lieutenant-Governor Mr. Thompson is

Mr. Thompson.

entirely opposed to us, still we are extremely pained to hear of his ill-health. It is certainly exceedingly to be regretted that owing to ill-health he was not able to be present to receive their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Connaught (third son of Her Majesty) and the Duchess of Connaught, or to attend on the day of the opening of the Exhibition. Some say that he will take leave for some days. We find that many are pleased rather than displeased at this news. For people had at first expected that when Mr. Thompson became Lieutenant-Governor, there would be considerable advancement of Bengalis. But it is to be regretted that, like the low Europeans who are opposed to Mr. Ilbert, he is extremely hostile to Bengalis. The advancement of Bengalis is an eyesore to him. He looks upon Bengalis with an eye of extreme contempt. He is an extreme opponent of the Ilbert Bill. For all these reasons he has become very unpopular with the people of Bengal. Owing to this circumstance, a rumour has spread that by his opposition to the Governor-General in the matter of the Ilbert Bill, Mr. Thompson has placed himself in a very unpleasant position, and that therefore, like Sir George Campbell who resigned in consequence of his difference with Lord Northbrook, Mr. Thompson also will be obliged to resign owing to his opposition to Lord Ripon. Be that as it may, we heartily wish the Lieutenant-Governor health, and pray to God that the ill-will His Honor bears towards Bengal may disappear. The ruler is like the father of the subjects, and any difference between a ruler and his subjects is as much deplorable as that between a father and a son. The ruler who is not able to please his subjects bears the name of ruler in vain. We hope that the ruler of Bengal will show that his name of ruler is not a misnomer.

SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

The members of the Imperial  
Legislative Council.

46. The *Sanjivani*, of the 15th December, says:—It is remoured in the city that the opponents of the Ilbert Bill are

SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.



trying to win over the members of the Imperial Legislative Council to their side. It is said some of the native members have already been caught in the net. It will soon be found out how many Sivaprasads there are in the Legislative Council. The hypocrisy of those that seek to ruin their country under the guise of patriotism will now be exposed.

SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

47. Baboo Bipinvihari Rai, a zemindar of Manikdaha, in the district of Furreedpore, writing to the same paper, condemns the opposition made by the Association headed by the Hon'ble Kristodás Pál to the

A zemindar blaming the British Indian Association.

Bengal Tenancy Bill. He says that Baboo Kristodás is not the real representative of the zemindars, and he thinks it his duty to inform the Government that the opinion of Baboo Kristodás and of his followers is not the opinion of the zemindars of the country. The zemindars have been regarded for a long time as oppressors and as a disgrace to the country. It is therefore a matter of great regret that the zemindars abovementioned are increasing the odium a hundredfold by associating with those Europeans and Eurasians who oppose the Ilbert Bill, and who both here and abroad are vilifying native character. Every educated and conscientious zemindar should publicly repudiate the views of the British Indian Association to show that he does not deserve the odium.

SANJIVANI.

48. The same paper disapproves of the modifications in the Ilbert Bill proposed by the *Statesman*. The writer

The *Statesman's* modifications in the Ilbert Bill.

thinks that in case these modifications are adopted, the natives will have the same power in future as they now have. The Bill will make no difference. The *Statesman* says that every one accused of a crime in a foreign country naturally desires to be tried by his own countrymen. But in the writer's opinion a right-minded man does not object to be tried by anybody, provided that the Judge is an able man, but bad men desire that the Judge should be unduly partial towards them. If one's countryman is a bad Judge a good man would not like to be tried by him in preference to an able foreign Judge. A bad man would like to be tried by him who is likely to give him less punishment. So the writer thinks that one who lives in a foreign country has no right to demand exemption from the jurisdiction of foreign tribunals.

SANJIVANI.

49. In an article communicated to the same paper, the writer re-

Impressment of coolies in Assam.

marks that no feeling heart can refrain from stoutly protesting against the obnoxious system of impressment of coolies in Assam. When the peasants are driving their ploughs in their fields, or talking with their neighbours after toil, in comes the Government peon, arrests them all, and disappears. Some time ago there was a great agitation on this subject. Mr. Elliot, the Chief Commissioner, asked the opinions of the Deputy Commissioners, but the matter ended there. The impressment of coolies affords an excellent opportunity of satisfying private grudge. The Deputy Commissioner orders the mouzadars to supply him with coolies, and the man against whom the mouzadar has a grudge is sure to be sent up as an impressed cooly.

BANGABASI,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

50. The *Banga Bási*, of the 15th December, complains of the hardship that has been caused to the ryot as regards his right in the bastu land, since the decision by

The homestead land of the ryot.

Sir Richard Garth on this subject (*vide* Indian Law Report, Vol. III). The purport of the decision is that if a tenant does not make any contract with the zemindar, the zemindar can evict the tenant from his bastu land; even 60 years' possession will not avail anything. If there be any written or verbal contract, the burden of proof will be on the ryot and the contract should be to the effect that the zemindar will never be able to evict the



ryot. The ryot is illiterate; very few understand that a contract is to be entered into with the zemindar for bastu land. Sir Richard, after a lapse of time, and after the ruin of a large number of ryots, perceived his mistake, and said in a second decision that if a ryot could prove long possession, had erected pucca buildings and made permanent improvements, the Court might presume that he had a mokurari right in the land. This is a little better, but the onus is still on the ryot. It is very difficult for the ryot to prove all this. Again, what is permanent improvement? If one has excavated a tank, some will say it is a permanent improvement, and others will not.

It is to remedy this evil that a section has been inserted in the Bengal Tenancy Bill at the instance of Baboo Brajendra Kumar Seal, to the effect that 12 years' possession will give permanent transferable right in the bastu land to the settled ryot. This is comparatively better. But this is not adequate. The rule of Sir Barnes Peacock was much better. He ruled that if the ryot erected a house, it was to be presumed that he had contracted for mokurari rights.

The writer suggests that provisions should be made to the following effect. When a ryot has erected a house no one will have power to evict him. The zemindar will have a right to demand reasonable rent. If the ryot lives in one part of his holding and cultivates the rest, he will have a right to keep the possession of the bastu land by giving proportionate rent when he relinquishes the rest of his holding. The rate of rent for bastu land should be fixed in the same way as the rent of other lands.

51. The same paper remarks that, though there is a Bengali Translator on high pay with several assistants, though it

BANGABASI,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

Report on Native Papers.

believes that selections from native papers are translated and printed, it is still of no avail. The editors have no means of knowing which of their articles are translated, which are left out, and which are reported in an abstract form, and they have no means of knowing whether the translation is correct or not. Some are of opinion that a petition should be made to the noble-minded Lord Ripon to the effect that the report be made public. The writer is prepared to accept the suggestion. But he is not prepared to form a committee for it. For he is opposed to committees and associations that are useless.

The petition should contain another statement that Governmental publications, though promised, are not supplied to the native press.

52. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 15th December, says:— "We are sorry to hear that the Lieutenant-Governor is

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
Dec. 15th, 1883.

Mr. Thompson.

unwell. Some say he will go to England on short leave owing to ill-health. Again, it is rumoured that by the manner in which he has manifested his opposition towards Lord Ripon on the subject of the Ilbert Bill, he has placed himself in an unpleasant position. He may be obliged to resign his appointment in the same way as Sir George Campbell was, owing to his difference with Lord Northbrook. We cannot tell how far this statement is true."

53. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 16th December, remarks that Lord Ripon has out of courtesy to the

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Dec. 16th, 1883.

The Ilbert Bill.

Anglo-Indian opposition, or in deference to its demands, reduced the Ilbert Bill to a mere skeleton, and if he now delays to pass it, it may lose its existence. India will not be raised to heaven when the Bill passes. But the measure is based on a noble principle, through the operation of which in time the natives of India may come to have a position of equality with Englishmen. It is for this reason that the writer prays that by passing the Bill without delay the principle may be embodied into law.



DACCA PRAKASH,  
Dec. 16th, 1883.

54. The same paper remarks that of the four gentlemen of whom the Outstill Commission is composed, three are Government officers, Baboo Krishna Bihari Sen alone being a non-official. The appointment of Baboo Krishna Bihari Sen is indeed hopeful. But what can he alone do if the three Government officers become of a different opinion? The writer thinks that the number of non-officials should be increased, and that the Rev. Mr. Evans, of Monghyr, included in the Commission, for he has collected much valuable information on the subject. The writer complains that the time allowed to the Commission is only three months. This is quite inadequate for the purpose.

55. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 17th December:—Nothing now remains of the form in

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Dec. 17th, 1883.

Lord Ripon and the Ilbert Bill.

which the Ilbert Bill was originally introduced into the Legislative Council. In that form it was considered a small and trifling measure. But, considering its present form, it has become a smaller, nay the smallest measure possible. Unfortunately the more Lord Ripon is listening to the unreasonable demands of the opponents of the Jurisdiction Bill, the more insatiable are they becoming. Those that were formerly disposed to accept the measure with modifications are now resolved to prevent its passing in any form. The English rulers govern this country in a despotic manner. By subjecting the people of India to a despotic and repressive rule, Anglo-Indians have gradually lost their natural and national instincts. They cannot now be swayed by reason, cannot now settle a dispute by argument, and consider any leniency shown by the authorities as a sign of weakness. Consequently the line of policy by the adoption of which Lord Ripon is seeking to pass the Jurisdiction Bill is one which is not suited to this country. Such conduct would in England have made Lord Ripon respected and esteemed by the English nation, but in India the more His Excellency is disregarding a repressive policy and abandoning portions of the Bill in deference to the wishes of its opponents, the more defiant are they becoming. Lord Ripon ought to have passed the Bill last year as soon as it was introduced into the Legislative Council. Had he done so, he would have simply acted according to the manner in which the authorities govern this country, and Anglo-Indians would have found nothing wrong or unjust in such action, while there would have been no such agitation as has been witnessed. Again, if he had, in disregard of the Anglo-Indian agitation, firmly expressed his determination to pass the Ilbert Bill, he would have been spared his present embarrassments. In that case the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal could not have become the leader of the rebel Anglo-Indians, nor could the Judges of the High Court have expressed themselves against the Bill. But there is yet time left. If Lord Ripon wishes to be spared further troubles, let him stick to his present line of policy. The Editor concludes by asking Lord Ripon to pass the Ilbert Bill, otherwise the Government of the country will virtually pass into the hands of unprincipled Anglo-Indians—a contingency which, if it comes to pass, will mean the downfall of the British Indian Empire.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

56. The same paper remarks, in reference to Lord Ripon's statement regarding the Ilbert Bill recently made in the Legislative Council, that it was hoped that the measure would become law as soon as His Excellency returned to the metropolis. But it now appears that the Bill will be shortly considered in the Executive Council. The Editor implores the Viceroy to pass it without delay, and thus put an end to the outcries of its opponents.



57. The same paper observes that by proposing to establish a Central Board in connection with the local self-government scheme, Mr. Thompson really intended to benefit the country. Unfortunately Lord Ripon and the Secretary of State have disallowed the proposal. The Magistrates and Commissioners will therefore be now vested with powers of supervision over Local Boards and municipalities. Indeed, as regards municipalities, Mr. Reynolds has distinctly said that Magistrates and Commissioners will have powers of supervision. Now this means that the people will not have opportunities of being trained in the work of local self-government. Considering the difference that has arisen between the rulers and the people in consequence of the Ilbert Bill, it is almost certain that henceforth native Municipal Commissioners will not have even that amount of independence which formerly they enjoyed under the supervision of Magistrates and Commissioners. It therefore appears that natives will find it necessary to object to certain portions of the Municipal Bill. This, however, they will not be able to do if, as Mr. Reynolds says, the measure will be passed into law after a month. It therefore behoves the native community to see that it is not passed so soon. The measure is an important one, and on the form in which it now passes will depend in a large measure the form of the Local Self-Government Bill.

The Local Self-Government and the Municipal Bills.

AFANDA BAKAR  
PATRIKA,  
Dec. 17th, 1883.

58. The *Surabhi*, of the 17th December, remarks that on the day of Lord Ripon's return to the metropolis, even the poorest citizen of Calcutta illuminated his house in honour of Lord Ripon, the present liberal policy of the Indian Administration or the political advancement of the country. But Raya Kristo Das Pal, Maharajah Jatindra Mohan Tagore, and a few other opponents of the Rent Bill did not illuminate their houses. Has the Rent Bill blinded these men just as the Ilbert Bill has blinded some weakminded Englishmen?

Lord Ripon and the zemindars.

SURABHI,  
Dec. 17th, 1883.

59. It will be readily perceived, says the same paper, that the form in which Lord Ripon has decided upon passing the Ilbert Bill offers more advantages to the European than it does to the native. But it is a matter of surprise that His Excellency, though he has done so much for them, is not yet able to please the lowminded Europeans in Bengal.

The Ilbert Bill.

SURABHI.

60. The same paper makes the following observations on the result of the appeal in the High Court in the Dacca student's case:—The conduct of the present Judges of the Calcutta High Court suggests the question whether these judicial officers are the descendants of those noble-minded English Judges whose fearless independence and impartiality have rendered the English name holy in this world, or whether they are the counterparts of those Judges who were a disgrace of the English Bench and a mention of whose names caused Surendra Baboo to suffer imprisonment. The Judges have begun to administer such justice that one could almost wish to pray to God that English courts and English justice might disappear in the bottomless abyss. After stating that the Judges have confirmed the sentence of imprisonment, the Editor proceeds to make the following observations:—"After seeing and hearing all the facts of the case, we have been quite overpowered with grief, disappointment, and anger. It seems to us that perhaps we are living under the Turkish Government. The conduct of the Judges is marked from beginning to end by palpable race antagonism. Who is it that is punished with rigorous imprisonment? An innocent school-boy, who causelessly molested by the police pushes them back with his stick, is

The High Court on the Dacca student's case.

SURABHI.



"punished with the punishment that is inflicted upon a thief, a forger, or a murderer! And flogging for the same reason, and three months' rigorous imprisonment for the same reason! There is no appeal against it in this world, but the Judge of all judges will do justice in this case."

SURABHI,  
Dec. 17th, 1883.

61. The same paper is gratified to notice that meetings have begun to be held in different towns in this country in support of the Ilbert Bill. Such meetings have already been held in Bombay, Chittagong, Dhubri, Sylhet, Siligoree, Dacca, Burdwan, Halisahar, Chinsurah, Mymensingh, Azimgunge, Dakshineswar, Konnagar, and other localities. It behoves the people earnestly to agitate in order that the Ilbert Bill may not be passed in the mutilated form in which it is proposed to pass it, or at least that section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure may not be amended in the manner in which it has been proposed to amend it.

SURABHI.

62. The same paper observes that the form in which it is now proposed to pass the Ilbert Bill will make it possible at present for only one native civilian to obtain criminal jurisdiction over Europeans; and the same jurisdiction will probably be vested in two others within a few years. The proposal regarding the transfer of a case in which a European accused is implicated from the court of a native Magistrate suggests the question whether the mere objection of a European to be tried by a native Judge will be considered a sufficient ground for the transfer of his case from the court of such Judge. Perhaps this privilege will be conferred upon Europeans, otherwise why is the section in the Code of Criminal Procedure bearing upon this subject going to be amended? But if this is done, a premium will be held to the maintenance of race distinctions. It was never expected that Lord Ripon would show so much weakness. The remark has been repeatedly made in this journal that any compromise in the matter of the Ilbert Bill will satisfy neither the Europeans nor the natives. The compromise now proposed has not satisfied either party. In the form to which the Ilbert Bill has now been reduced, the principal of the measure is indeed retained, but certain provisions which have been added to it are such as make the maintenance of the principle in future exceedingly problematical. Such political impropriety is worthy of Lord Lytton and not of Lord Ripon.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
Dec. 17th, 1883.

63. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 17th December, observes that in their minute on the Ilbert Bill, the Judges of the Calcutta High Court adverted to the defects which mark the administration of criminal justice in this country. Indeed, civil justice is here better administered than criminal justice; and the reason why this is the case is to be found in the fact that the civil courts are presided over by men who are, as a rule, better educated and more versed in law than those officers who preside over the subordinate criminal courts. There are not a few Deputy, Assistant, and Joint-Magistrates who are quite innocent of all knowledge of the law of evidence and criminal law. Owing to want of education, again, their disposition and inclinations become such as are not worthy of a good judicial officer. Another reason why the quality of the work done by the criminal courts is inferior to that done in the civil courts is that the officers who preside over the former set of tribunals are required to attend to various other duties besides what may be regarded as strictly judicial work, and the consequence is that judicial work is not properly done. The Deputy Magistrates are at present required to attend to the following departments of work:—(1) the treasury, (2) stamps, (3) the certificate procedure, (4) the road cess and the public works cess, (5) pounds, ferries, the



chowkidari and the zemindari daks, (6) the *batuarra* operations, (7) khas mehal settlements and surveys, (8) the excise, (9) the license tax, (10) land acquisition for public purposes, (11) the Court of Wards, (12) land registration, (13) canals and embankments, (14) inspection of records, accounts, &c. All this the Deputy Magistrates are required to attend to. The Magistrates also have much to do. It is because Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates are overweighted with a multiplicity of work that criminal justice is not being efficiently administered. The necessity has thus arisen of allotting judicial work to officers who shall not be required to attend to any other work. Unfortunately Government attends more to the interests of revenue than to the necessity of dispensing better justice to the people. It is, however, its duty to take the matter into its consideration. A large revenue is raised from the sale of stamps, and Government cannot, in justice, refuse to adopt measures for the more efficient administration of justice. Judicial work should be separated from executive work, and officers should be appointed to dispense criminal justice who shall have received a good education and passed some difficult examination in law. These officers should be placed under the direct supervision of the District Judge.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
Dec. 17th, 1883.

64. The same paper dwells upon the statistics of the silk trade in Bengal, and expresses regret at the decline of this industry. The Editor is glad to notice that the attention of Government has been drawn to the matter, and that under its auspices an exhibition of silk cocoons will shortly be held at Berhampore. It behoves Government, while it offers encouragement to the exhibitors, to adopt measures for communicating to them information regarding the correct mode of rearing cocoons and other facts connected with the silk trade.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

65. Referring to Mr. Dampier's speech on the subject of Local Self-Government at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 2nd December, in which he referred to the fact that the Secretary of State had disallowed the proposal regarding the creation of a Central Board, and had pointed out the desirability of vesting Magistrates and Commissioners with powers of control over Local Boards, the same paper remarks that the views of the Secretary of State have caused great disappointment. Indeed, the disappointment is greater than that caused by Mr. Thompson's delay in introducing local self-government. There is not much room for objection that the Secretary of State has disallowed the proposal regarding a Central Board, inasmuch as it was pretty certain that members of the Board would not be appointed on the principle of election; what has made the public uneasy is that he wants to have the dreadful figure of the Magistrate-Collector for ever present before the members of the Local Self-Government Board. In the two resolutions on the subject of local self-government recorded by Lord Ripon, there is no mention of any powers of direct control to be exercised by magisterial officers. Unfortunately Lord Kimberley has not apparently perceived what is clear to Lord Ripon, that the shadow of the Magistrate destroys the independence of native members. Of course, it is not meant to be said that Local Boards should be perfectly free from all control. What is maintained is that no rigorous control over them is necessary. The Boards will have some small powers in connection with local matters entrusted to them; and for the exercise of these powers, it is not necessary to subject them to a rigorous official supervision. It will be enough if the Commissioner keeps an eye over them from a distance. Another reason why Magistrates should be relieved of the work of controlling the operations of the Local Boards is that these officers are at present exceedingly overworked and need relief.

Local Self-Government in the Bengal  
Legislative Council.



NAVABHAKAR.

66. We extract the following observations from the same paper on the result of the appeal to the High Court in the Dacca students' case:—"We find

The Dacca students' case.

that Magistrates used so long to shelter the police under their wings, but that the Judges of the High Court have now become its patrons. The Magistrates should protect the people from oppression at the hands of the police, and the High Court should protect them from oppression at the hands of the Magistrates; but owing to faulty arrangements on the part of Government, the people have lost the protection of the Magistrates, and now they are deprived of the protection of the High Court. On the motion of Mr. Ghosh, the Hon'ble Judges, Messrs. Mitter and Pigot, as soon as they heard the facts of the case, had directed the release of the boy-defendant on bail. From this it is clear that the Judges considered the punishment of Rajnath as unduly severe. But the disposition and judicial acumen of Mr. Justice Cunningham are of a different order. The hearing of the case had hardly begun, when he said: 'Why do you waste our time with such cases; there is nothing in this case which might call for our interference.' Mr. Justice Cunningham must have forgotten that native tax-payers pay him handfuls of rupees every month, in order that he may do justice in such trumpery cases. On the occasion of a procession, the streets were very crowded. The police has always laboured under this disease that it pushes with its baton whenever there is a crowd. In the case under notice, the police had certainly pushed with its baton, and it is exceedingly probable that Rajnath, who was pushed, pushed back in return. Under these circumstances, he has been sent to jail, and his companion has been flogged. In any country other than India such punishment would not have been inflicted for such an offence; nor would, when a motion was made to have the sentence quashed, the Judges of the High Court have contemptuously dismissed the case with a few words and confirmed the sentence of the Lower Court. In passing sentence upon natives, the hearts of English Judges do not at all feel any pain; but if a sentence of one day's imprisonment is passed upon a European, there is agitation made on all sides."

SOM PRAKASH,  
Dec. 17th, 1888.

67. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th December, is exceedingly gratified to read the statement made in the Legislative Council by Lord Ripon on the Ilbert Bill.

The Ilbert Bill.

The Editor commends the liberal-mindedness shown by His Excellency throughout the controversy on this Bill, and condemns the vituperation in which the opponents of the measure have indulged. But while the action of Lord Ripon, in allowing everybody to have his say on the Bill, is worthy of all approbation, His Excellency did not do well in suffering those who are opposed to the Bill to abuse him. This has been due to his exceeding good nature. The unbridled license of Anglo-Indian Editors ought to have been curbed. Lord Canning for a time gagged the *Friend of India*. Lord Ripon's goodness was about to give birth to a practice which would have been subversive of the present system of administration. The opponents of the Bill had determined to appeal to Parliament, and to this Lord Ripon also had agreed. But if Parliament had been vested with the power of passing the Bill, the present system of Indian administration would have been doubtless revolutionized, and the office of Viceroy and his Council, as well as the Council of the Secretary of State, would have been rendered unnecessary. Gradually Parliament would have acquired the full power of legislating for India. That would not have been bad for India. The form in which the Ilbert Bill is going to be passed is such that it matters little whether the measure becomes law or not; nevertheless the principle of the Bill has been maintained intact, and this principle may in



future be extended and developed. The Editor concludes by exhorting his contemporaries of the native press to accept in good grace the Bill in the form in which it is going to be passed, and to proclaim the victory of Lord Ripon.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Dec. 17th, 1883.

68. Referring to the proposal recently made by the *Statesman* on the subject of the Ilbert Bill, to the effect that the operations of the Bill, when passed, should be confined only to localities where there are no Europeans, the same paper remarks that this is really amusing. The proposal is one which cannot but please Europeans. But what is the necessity of the Ilbert Bill in a place where cases which should call for its application do not occur? Who will try cases of ruptured spleen if native judicial officers are not to be empowered to try them in tea districts? The proposal of the *Statesman* is of course one which is of a piece with all legislation in which Europeans in this country are concerned. But Lord Ripon hates all hypocrisy and double-dealing. Such proposals as the one made by the *Statesman* would have done formerly when the country was steeped in ignorance, and the people had an impression that wrong-doing was habitual to Christians. The wrong-doing by means of which former Governors-General and their subordinates extended the Empire in India is such that no conscientious person can now recall it without being stung with remorse. A change has now occurred. The British cannot now attempt to impose on the people of this country without incurring the odium of hypocrisy and unfairness. The example of former Viceroys should not be followed at the present time. Warren Hastings and Lord Lytton must now make room for better men. The line of policy which Lord Ripon advocates is one which is suited to the present circumstances of the country. From the time when His Excellency studied Indian affairs in the India Office, the conviction has grown strong in him that there will be no good to India until a policy of equality and impartiality is introduced into it. Oppression and consequent dissatisfaction lead to overthrow of empires. Disappointment makes men desperate, witness the Sepoy mutiny. That catastrophe was not, as is supposed by many, brought about by the use of greased cartridges. The cause of it lay in the dissatisfaction of the sepoys, who had no careers before them in the army. They rebelled, and certain deposed Native Chiefs joined them. But there would have been no mutiny if the British Government had not despoiled Native Princes, but had sought to improve the condition of the country. The proposal of the *Statesman* is not suited to the present times.

69. The same paper remarks, in reference to the recent debate on the amendment of the Emigration Act in the Indian Legislative Council, that the amendments moved by the Hon'ble Kistodas Pal, and accepted by the Council, were all wise and proper. The Editor points out that instead of encouraging labourers in densely-populated districts to emigrate to foreign countries, it would be better if Government encouraged them to settle in the many uninhabited tracts in the North-Western Provinces and elsewhere in India.

SOM PRAKASH.

70. The *Samaya*, of the 17th December, gives a brief summary of Lord Ripon's speech in the Legislative Council on the Ilbert Bill, and says, if the opponents of Lord Ripon had carefully perused his speech, they would have ceased clamouring for its withdrawal. The proposed modifications keep the principle of the Bill intact indeed, but the husk only remains, the kernel has disappeared. Only a very few of the natives will enjoy the privilege. The statutory Civilian has very little hope of becoming District Magistrate or

SAMAYA,  
Dec. 17th, 1883.



Sessions Judge. The accused European will be able to get his case transferred at his pleasure. The appointment of the Justices of the Peace will rest in the hands of the Local Government. So the race distinction will be kept up specially in Bengal during the administration of Mr. Thompson. But the people of Bengal are satisfied with the husks. Again, if the opponents want to have the Bill discussed in Parliament, Lord Ripon will not object to it. Whatever his opponents may say even boys can understand how respectfully he has heard their objections. The writer says the Anglo-Indians should not clamour and pour out gall any more. They only show their meanness in abusing such a noble-hearted ruler as Lord Ripon. But if they are not satisfied with all this, the writer thinks that no respect ought to be shown to them, and the Bill should be passed immediately without the modifications. The modifications were proposed to satisfy the opposition. If they are not satisfied, these are useless.

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71. The same paper complains that alterations in the rules regarding the vernacular and middle English scholarship examinations are only known to the Inspectors of Schools. Even the teachers and the Secretaries cannot know it. For instance, formerly students who obtained a certain number of marks in the aggregate were held to have passed. But now they must obtain pass marks in each subject. This is a great change. But it was not made known to the teachers or to the Secretaries.

The writer makes the following suggestions regarding these examinations :—

- (1) The vernacular schools should be brought under the control of the University, and a rule made that none who had not previously passed the vernacular examination should be allowed to appear in the Entrance Examination. This will make people learn Bengali, and the vernacular schools will be better attended.
- (2) The Secretaries of vernacular schools should have the liberty of allowing English to be taught in the school up to the second or the third book of reading to such students as may desire to study English.
- (3) The middle English schools should be abolished at once, vernacular schools being established in their stead.
- (4) Vernacular scholarships should be established with the money made available by the abolition of the middle English scholarships.
- (5) The students should study vernacular literature, grammar, arithmetic, geometry, history and geography only ; they should not be burdened with the study of difficult branches of science which impair their memory.

SAMAYA.

72. The same paper says :—“ The Bengal Police has become utterly worthless. No one has any doubt about it.

The Bengal Police.

Only a few days ago there was a case of dacoity at Belur. In the week preceding there was another case within six hundred cubits of the police station at Diamond Harbour, in which an old man lost all he had. The mofussil correspondents of our paper frequently write to inform us of thefts and dacoities, but still the sleep of the police remains undisturbed. Every winter dacoities are committed ; the indolence of the police is the principal cause. It is frequently seen that police officers, from constables to Superintendents, are fond of sleeping at night in the winter. Thieves and dacoits make the best use of these opportunities. Everyone can see that in every village there is a place where the constables



sleep. At the change of patrol, one constable comes to sit or sleep in the place occupied by his predecessor. The number of conscientious men is very small in the Police Department. The commission of theft and robbery is therefore very easy. Over and above this, the population is disarmed by the favour or the disfavour of the Government. If there be a single musket in any house, thieves or dacoits will not venture to set their foot there. We have this day shown in one place that idolence is our national sin, and in this place we show that the indifference of the authorities is the cause of this sort of anarchy. We hope the advisers of the Lieutenant-Governor will keep an eye on the police. Is Mr. Lyall sleeping, or is he awake? Some time ago he showed the cleverness of the police by writing a report; it is therefore we ask, where is he? Is he sleeping, or awake? Perhaps he is trying to arrest dacoits. But it is a shame to the police that dacoity should be committed close to the police station."

73. The same paper observes that the Bengal Tenancy Bill will increase litigation. The ryot will have to seek the assistance of the Collector, and also of the

The Rent Bill.

Civil Court, at every step, such as in having his name registered, his rights in the land declared, and so on. The zemindar has a regular agency for conducting litigation. He has paid vakils, paid muktears, and paid men in charge of the litigation department. They live in the courts, and litigation is their profession. But to the ryot litigation is like a plunge in the ocean. He will have to pay handsomely every one about the court, from the chaprasi up to the serishtadar.

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74. The *Samvād Prabhakār*, of the 18th December, observes that, though other Presidencies have passed Local Self-Government Bills, the Government of

Local Self-Government.

Bengal is still hesitating. Mr. Thompson is not only an opponent of the Ilbert Bill, but he is an opponent of the Self-Government policy also. He expressed great delight when the ap-ke-waste Commissioners of Dinajpore said that they did not want the Ilbert Bill. It is doubtful whether the Self-Government Bill will pass during this session even. People say that, if Mr. Thompson can delay the passing of the Bill for some time longer, Lord Ripon will go away, and the Bill will be dropped. The appointment of Mr. Westmacott, who is opposed to the advancement of Bengalis, and is a very high-handed Magistrate, on special duty to introduce self-government, is looked upon by the people with suspicion. The writer asks that Mr. Thompson should make no more delay in passing this Bill.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
Dec. 18th, 1883.

75. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 18th December, says that the Ilbert Bill, as at present modified, retains but very little of its original character. If the

The Ilbert Bill.

Bill passes with these modifications, it will make but very little change. The Local Government will have full power to appoint District Magistrates and Sessions Judges. It is doubtful whether those Governments that are opposed to the Bill will appoint natives to those posts. Still the principle remains intact. Lord Ripon does not abandon the principle in spite of the agitation of narrow-minded Europeans. The moral courage of Lord Ripon is really praiseworthy. Though there is no hope of the Bill passing in its original form, the people will be glad if the proposals of Lord Ripon be carried out.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Dec. 18th, 1883.

76. The same paper is glad to learn that Government has appointed a Commission to report on the working of the outstill system. It is glad to know

The Outstill Commission.

that the Government has at last come to learn that the outstill system has increased drunkenness, and that endeavours should be made to prevent the evil.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.



PRABHATI,  
Dec. 18th, 1883.

Mr. Amir Ali.

77. The *Prabhāti*, of the 18th December, is very glad to learn that Mr. Amir Ali has been appointed a Member of the Imperial Legislative Council. Every one is glad to hear of his appointment, except the *Indian Mirror*.

DAINIK VARTA,  
Dec. 18th, 1883.

78. The *Dainik Vartā*, of the 18th December, sarcastically remarks that Mr. Justice Mitra and Mr. Justice Pigot were fools, and therefore they accepted the appeal in the Dacca student's case.

The appeal in the Dacca student's case. It has been long well known that intelligence is a monopoly of Mr. Justice Cunningham; otherwise why should he be selected to write the Minute of the Judges against the Ilbert Bill? But with intelligence he should have had a fair share of feeling. The head and the heart seem to be at variance. Can we think that the man who from his seat of justice can send a school-boy to jail for a trifling offence is an ornament of the Bench? The way in which Mr. Cunningham talked with Mr. Ghosh is unworthy of a cool-headed Judge. A young man of respectable family is sent to jail, and the prospects of his life are ruined for ever: is that a trumpery affair?

He is an ornament to the Bench who can preserve his calmness in times of agitation and commotion. People cannot expect that judicial calmness from the writer of the High Court Minute against the Ilbert Bill. The manner of the trial can well be judged from the conversation with Mr. Ghosh. It rends the heart of the writer to think that the Calcutta High Court, the Court of Sir Barnes Peacock, of Mr. Markby, and of Mr. Phear, should acquire such a bad name, that the High Court maddened by the Ilbert Bill agitation should do injustice.

UTKAL DIPIKA,  
Dec. 1st, 1883.

79. The *Utkal Dipikā*, of the 1st December, alludes to the strictures of Government on the vernacular newspapers of Orissa, and remarks that "the Government officers unnecessarily pass such sweeping remarks on vernacular newspapers as can never be approved of by any one."

Orissa newspapers.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

80. The same paper gives a short account of the reception of the Viceroy and their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught in Calcutta, and rejoices to invite the public to show their loyalty.

The Duke of Connaught.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

Instances of oppression in the Canal Revenue Department.

81. The same paper, while noticing in a long article certain instances of oppression in the Canal Revenue Department, makes the following observations:—

"If all the Government officers, from the highest to the lowest, combine to oppress poor subjects in the most objectionable way possible, and no one be held responsible for this, how can Government be said to be following a good policy? What is the use of a good policy if Government officers do not give effect to it in practice? It behoves Government to keep a sharp eye on the conduct of its officers; otherwise all their endeavours to do good to the community will be frustrated in the end."

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"Look at the Government trying, on the one hand, to save the tenants from the grip of their landlords by means of the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Bill, and realizing, on the other, water-rates from the people in the most unjust manner possible. Who will not hereafter repeat the old adage—'Has intelligence enough to teach others, though none to teach himself?'"

UTKAL DIPIKA.

82. We cull the following from the news and correspondence columns of the same paper:—(1) The price of rice is increasing rapidly in the Jajpur sub-division; (2) the winter crops are doing well in that sub-division; (3) many houses were burnt down in the current month in the Jajpur town; (4) the mode

Price of rice; village gurus, &c.



of examining village gurus and their pupils, and of rewarding them under the payment-by-result system in the Khoorda sub-division, is much approved of.

83. The *Samvād Bāhikā*, of the 29th November, learns from a correspondent residing in the northern part of the

Crops in Balasore.

SAMVAD BAHIKA,  
Nov. 29th, 1883.

Balasore district that the Collector of that district had been on a tour to Baliapal thana, but did not take the trouble to inspect those parts of the thana where the loss of crop has been the greatest. The writer recommends the mode of travelling adopted by Mr. Beadon, late Collector of that district, with whom it was a pleasure to move about from one village to another. The paper further learns from its correspondent that those tracts of the thana that were inundated during the late floods are in the worst condition. Those that had transplanted paddy plants in fields after the floods were over found, to their mortification, that the plants would not bear corn. Again, those that bore any were dried up through want of rain.

84. The same paper, in alluding to the determination of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to transfer a certain portion of the Howrah district to

Change of thana jurisdictions.

SAMVAD BAHIKA.

Hooghly, and another to Midnapore, comes forward with its advice, which is to the effect that Kanthi should form a separate district, and that the Dantun and the Raghunathpore thanas should form parts of the Balasore district.

85. The same paper gives a short account of the arrangements made regarding the transmission of telegraphic

The sending of telegraphic messages through the Post Office.

SAMVAD BAHIKA.

messages through the Post Office and remarks:—"Government are making good many improvements day after day in the Telegraph and Postal Departments. What a great boon must it be for the people of Bhudruck, who are at a distance of two days' journey from the sudder station, if they are able to send telegraphic messages directly to Balasore through the Bhudruck Post Office without any additional cost or inconvenience?"

86. The same paper, in its epitome of news, states that the price of paddy is increasing rapidly—raw paddy at

Price of rice.

SAMVAD BAHIKA.

per rupee and raw rice at 9 pies per seer.

Price of rice.

87. The *Utkal Darpan* reports that the price of rice is rapidly increasing, the present

UTKAL DARPAN,  
Dec. 2nd, 1883.

rate being Rs. 2 a maund.

88. The same paper further points out that the agents of the Bombay merchants have gone so far as to purchase rice from the common people in town. The

Price of rice.

UTKAL DARPAN.

price of new raw rice has gone up to 9 pies a seer.

89. The same paper speaks very highly of the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Shital Nath Bose, and states that his

Baboo Shital Nath Bose.

UTKAL DARPAN.

decisions are invariably satisfactory both to the plaintiffs and defendants. The Editor, however, regrets that the Baboo, though he applied for three months' leave, has not been allowed it.

90. The following remarks are extracted from the letter of the special correspondent, Biswanath Satpathi, who was

UTKAL DARPAN.

State of the crops.

deputed by the paper to submit regular reports on the state of the crops in the mofussil—(1) That a 2 to 4-anna crop has been reaped in Sindhia, Bincha, Dhumurili, Kajipur, Olanda, Angula, Bharirampur, Tiakhia, Govindpur, Gopinathpore, Mandadaula, and Barada; (2) that a 12 to 14-anna crop has been reaped in Manikula, Bhimidia, Nalkuli, Jagannathpur, and Dambaria, where tide-water was extensively used; (3) that the Sahib and Bali embankments being broken, neighbouring villages were deprived of the advantage accruing from storage



of water in the rivers; (4) that the price of paddy has gone up from 11 to 7 gannis a rupee in many mofussil stations; and (5) that many people are thinking of joining the Coast Canal works, while others are being driven to despair, not knowing how to save their lives from the impending calamity.

UTKAL DARPAṆ,  
Dec. 2nd, 1883.

91. A correspondent of the same paper defends the action of Baboo Radhanath Rai, Joint-Inspector of Schools Orissa Division, alluded to in our last Report and remarks that the Inspector has done very well in not overlooking "the competency, smartness, and eligibility of the Cuttack Deputy Inspector."

PURUSOTTAM PATRIKA,  
Dec. 3rd, 1883.

92. The *Purusottam Patriká*, of the 3rd December, in alluding to the imposition of a small fine of Rs. 5 on the District Superintendent of Police, Pooree, by the Magistrate of that place, in connection with a criminal case which a police constable had brought against the former, remarks that "such acts on the part of responsible officers like District Superintendents of Police are reprehensible."

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 22nd December 1883.*